

To: Renewable Advisory Board

From: Janice McClanaghan,
Energy Office

Date: April 5, 2005

Subject: Update

The following is the April 2005, monthly update for the Renewable Energy Fund:

RES Programs/Supply

Wind

- 1) URI –The students are preparing a request for a grant to install anemometers on the school radio tower. All other development activities are on hold until the performance contractor is chosen at the end of May.
- 2) Portsmouth Abbey Wind –The Abbey wind project is on the Agenda for the Portsmouth Zoning Review Board meeting on April 21. The Abbey is preparing its presentation to the Zoning Board and will have an expert in avian issues available as well as an operator of Vestas wind turbines.
- 3) Raytheon – Raytheon has requested a grant for a feasibility study for a 1-4 mW wind turbine project at its Portsmouth facility. See attached proposal.
- 4) Roger Williams University Wind Center – Update is attached.
- 5) Avian Issues – CESA is continuing to work with members and the US Department of Interior, state wildlife officials, the wind industry and environmental stakeholders to create a state level, pilot program to address wind facility compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The purpose of the program is to evaluate and establish the use of safe harbor agreements and/or other regulatory approaches to provide protection from legal prosecution under the MBTA for wind projects that agree to comply with a set of siting, operational, research, and mitigation protocols.
- 6) Berkshire Wind – The Berkshire Wind Project has received its final permits and is in the process of securing turbines and finalizing off-take and other contracts. Timing is tight, but the developer is still aiming for project completion in 2005.
- 7) Offshore Wind Collaborative – Greg Watson from the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust will make a presentation at the July 2005 Advisory Board meeting on the activities of the Offshore Wind Collaborative.

Hydropower/Ocean Wave

- 8) Energetech Point Judith Ocean Wave Project-
 - a) Energetech is in the process of evaluating the financial and technical feasibility of bringing the Port Kembla unit to Point Judith. The feasibility review should be complete by May 2005.
 - b) The National Hydropower Association has asked FERC for a meeting to consider FERC's approach to small hydropower and new technologies (see below.) The Point

Judith draft Declaration of Intent (asking FERC to not claim jurisdiction over the project but rather abide by the permitting decision made by RI CRMC) has been put on hold and will be finalized based on the results of the meeting on April 6, 2005.

- 9) Royal Mills Hydro – No Update.
- 10) Rentricity – A letter agreement has been negotiated with Rentricity which provides the developer with a repayable grant of \$93,000 for design work for a project in Pawtucket and a study of FERC issues for a project at Scituate Reservoir. In return, the Fund has a right of first refusal for RECs which are priced at cost to the projects, which in preliminary analysis, is quite a bit lower than spot market prices for RECs. This transaction serves as a model that will help the Fund to achieve its goal of lowering the cost of RES compliance for RI ratepayers.
- 11) Slater Mill – Slater Mill has requested a grant of \$390,000 to construct a 25kW hydro project. Investigation into the details of the proposal will be made before discussion by the Board at the May 2005 meeting.
- 12) FERC Licensing - A meeting was held by FERC on April 6, 2005, with teleconference participation, to gain industry participants' perspectives on hydrokinetic (ocean and tidal), small, and incremental hydro technologies and associated regulatory processes, and to discuss whether to continue dialogue on possible mutually beneficial improvements to the regulatory processes. At the end of the meeting, the National Hydropower Association (NHA) was tasked with providing a written proposal to FERC to streamline licensing for these classes of hydropower, especially for demonstrations of new ocean technologies.

Biomass

- 13) Nova Plasma Arc – The Rhode Island Climate Coalition and Clean Water Action have submitted testimony in opposition to proposed changes in the RES legislation that would allow the plasma arc process be eligible for the RES.

Voluntary Markets Support – Customer Sited

PV

- 14) Solar on Schools – Entech Engineering update attached.
- 15) PV RFP – No update. The PV RFP has not been re-issued due to the strategic planning process being in progress.
- 16) Low Income Programs – No update.

Voluntary Market Support – Green Power

- 17) Renewable Energy Customer Aggregation (RECA) RFP and Proposal to Large Customer Program – During the month of March, Think Energy engaged in two conference call meetings with RI RECA members BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc., Brown University, Hyatt Hotels Corporation, Johnson and Wales University, and Roger Williams University. At these meetings, members all agreed to pursue final management approval for the long pursued wind energy contract for differences. Think Energy agreed to send an internal sales packet to all parties. They also discussed a new contract for differences offering. Finally, Roger

Williams University says they have reviewed the contract and have all final internal approval. They are ready to sign a contract with minor modifications.

18) State House Green Power Purchase – Proposals are due April 8.

19) GreenUp – As of the end of March, 2005, there have been a total of 1680 GreenUp signups, up from 1570 at the end of February, 2005.

Outreach and Education

20) Smartpower – See attached materials and update.

21) Audubon – see attached update.

22) Apeiron – Apeiron is making plans for the 3rd Annual Rhode Island Sustainable Living Festival & Renewable Energy Expo on Saturday, June 5th from 11 am to 7 pm. Smartpower is participating in the plans for outreach.

Administration

23) Strategic Plan – The Executive Summary of the Strategic Plan has been finalized and will be circulated to the Legislature (see attached plus minutes to the last Strategic Planning meeting.) The next meeting devoted to the Strategic Plan will be during the regular Advisory Board meeting on May 10, 2005. The RES, Customer-Sited and Green Power plans will be completed by the May 10 meeting.

24) CESA – A proposed three year strategic plan for CESA and a memorandum of understanding are attached. CESA dues for the fiscal year 2006 (beginning July 1, 2005) are \$23,636.